



St. Joseph County Health Department

"Promoting physical and mental health and facilitating the prevention of disease, injury, and disability for all St. Joseph County residents"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The St. Joseph County Health H1N1 Vaccine Availability

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY- Health officials report the receipt of additional shipments of novel H1N1 vaccine in St. Joseph County. A limited amount of the H1N1, Inactivated Vaccine (Flu Shot) and Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) nasal spray is being shipped on a weekly basis to the St. Joseph County Health Department and distributed within our local health care provider networks. Demand for the vaccine is greater than the supply received, however additional shipments are expected in the coming weeks. The limited amount of vaccine being received is due to manufacturing delays, however it is expected that shipment amounts will increase in the coming weeks.

The H1N1 flu shot is recommended for:

- Pregnant women,
- People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months,
- Health care and emergency medical personnel,
- Anyone from 6 months through 24 years of age,
- Anyone from 25-64 years of age with certain chronic medical conditions or a weakened immune system.

The H1N1 Flu Mist is recommended for healthy, non-pregnant people who:

- Are from 2 through 24 years of age,
- Are from 25 through 49 years of age and
 - Live with or care for infants younger than 6 months of age, or
 - Are health care or emergency medical personnel.

Residents recommended to first receive the vaccine are advised to call their health care provider about vaccine availability, or contact the St. Joseph County Health Department locations listed below. H1N1 Influenza Vaccines from the Health Department are free of charge.

Due to limited vaccine amounts, the St. Joseph County Health Department is focusing vaccine at this time to:

- **Pregnant women,**
- **People who live with or care for infants younger than 6 months,**
- **Anyone from 6 months through 18 years of age,**

- **Health care and emergency medical personnel with direct contact with patients or infectious materials.**

Health Department H1N1 Vaccine will be offered through the month of November at the following locations, dates, and times (offices will be closed on November 11th, 26th, and 27th):

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ South Bend Location:
9th Floor County-City Building
227 W. Jefferson Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46601
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.
(574) 245-6656 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mishawaka Location:
County Services Building
219 Lincolnway West
Mishawaka, IN 46544
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:00-11:00 a.m. and 1:30-3:00 p.m.
(574) 256-6223 or (574) 256-6230 |
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Children through 9 years of age should get two doses of vaccine, about a month apart. Additional vaccine will be available in increasing allotments in the upcoming weeks. As more vaccine becomes available, the St. Joseph County Health Department will continue to work with local providers and will be looking to host targeted community clinics to reach the vaccine priority groups. Vaccine is first being targeted to priority groups who are at higher risk of disease or complications, those who are likely to come in contact with novel H1N1, and those who could infect young infants. Efforts to vaccinate all residents will occur once there is enough vaccine available for everyone.

"We wish we had enough of the H1N1 flu vaccine to vaccinate every Hoosier," said Dr. Monroe, Indiana State Health Commissioner. "However, everyone should be getting their seasonal flu vaccine as soon as possible." The St. Joseph County is currently out of seasonal flu vaccine; however residents can call the United Way 211 for information on additional seasonal flu vaccine availability in St. Joseph County.

St. Joseph County Health officials also recommend individuals practice other measures that can help protect against the flu by following the three C's: Clean your hands often, Cover your cough and sneezes, and Contain germs by steering clear of others who are sick and staying home if you are sick. Health officials also encourage other healthy habits such as getting plenty of sleep, eating nutritious foods, and drinking plenty of fluids.

For more information about influenza and the vaccine please visit the Indiana State Department of Health website at www.in.gov/flu. The Department will also be offering a toll-free hotline for the public to call for information on the H1N1 flu and its vaccine at: 1-877-826-0011 or TTY 1-888-561-0044.

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